

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in the application. The listing of claims below shows revisions with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~new custom~~ computer acquisition method comprising:
surveying, by a source computer, components of the source computer, wherein the surveying results in an inventory of the components, wherein the inventory identifies hardware and software installed on the source computer, and wherein the inventory further identifies user state and user settings and user preferences of the source computer;
receiving, from a user of the source computer, a selection of various of the components identified in the inventory;
packing, by the source computer, the user-selected components except any user-selected hardware components into a migration file;
predicting, based on the inventory, other hardware or other software that is potentially of interest to the user;
presenting, to the user by the source computer, options for the new computer, wherein the options include pricing and available configurations of the new computer and available upgrades relative to the source computer, wherein the available upgrades comprise the predicted other hardware or other software;
receiving, from the user by the source computer, a selection of various of the presented options;

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providing, by the source computer, information to the vendor, wherein the information comprises the inventory and the migration file and the selection of the various of the presented options, and wherein the information is configured to enable the vendor to migrate, from the migration file, the various of the components identified in the inventory, the user state, the user settings, and the user preferences to the new computer, and to install the various of the presented options selected by the user onto the new computer.

- ~~a) causing the contents of a source computer to be surveyed;~~
- ~~b) from said surveying, gaining knowledge of the components of said source computer, said surveying performed by a tool operating on the source computer, said knowledge comprising an inventory of components and user settings and user preferences of the source computer;~~
- ~~c) acquiring upgrade knowledge of a plurality of upgrade products which at least contain an upgrade over one or more of the components of said source computer;~~
- ~~d) receiving an order for a new target computer from a customer having dominion over said source computer;~~
- ~~e) recommending to said customer at least one upgrade product of a plurality of upgrade products to be installed on said target computer based upon the knowledge of said source computer components and the upgrade knowledge of said plurality of upgrade products, at least some of the plurality of upgrade products corresponding to one or more of the components of said source computer;~~
- ~~f) enabling said customer to choose at least one upgrade product of a plurality of upgrade products to be installed on said target computer;~~
- ~~g) migrating to said target computer, at least some of components of the inventory of components of the source computer, and at least some of the user settings~~

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of the source computer, and at least some of the user preferences of the source computer;

- h) installing the chosen at least one upgrade product on said target computer;
- i) processing said order; and
- j) following elements h) and i), causing a custom target computer to be delivered to said customer or said customer's agent.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the said source computer components comprise peripherals coupled to the source computer ~~a user state~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
downloading a migration software tool from the vendor ~~a remote location~~ onto the said source computer, wherein the migration tool operating on the source computer performs at least the surveying; and
~~carrying out elements a) through i) with the aid of said software tool.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the migration ~~said software~~ tool is ~~an instrumentality~~ under the dominion of the ~~a computer software and hardware~~ vendor.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

loading a migration software tool onto the said source computer, wherein the migration tool operating on the source computer performs at least the surveying,[[;]]
and

~~carrying out elements a) through i) with the aid of said software tool;~~
wherein the migration ~~said software~~ tool is an instrumentality under the dominion of the a computer software and hardware vendor, and wherein the said upgrades ~~products~~ are directly available from the said vendor.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

loading a migration software tool onto the said source computer, wherein the migration tool operating on the source computer performs at least the surveying,[[;]]
and

~~carrying out elements a) through i) with the aid of said software tool;~~
wherein the migration ~~said software~~ tool is an instrumentality under the dominion of the a computer software and hardware vendor, and wherein the said upgrades ~~products~~ are available via an Internet link to an instrumentality of a separate entity from the said vendor.

7. (Canceled) The method of Claim 6 further comprising:

~~said computer software and hardware vendor receives remuneration from said separate entity when an upgrade product is received from said instrumentality of said separate entity.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
loading a migration software tool onto the said source computer from a local storage medium comprising the migration said software tool and product upgrades, wherein the migration tool operating on the source computer performs at least the surveying; and
carrying out elements a) through i) with the aid of said software tool.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
activating, on the new computer by the user, at least one installed upgrade product via a telecommunication link.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the said upgrade products comprises software.
- 12-23. (Canceled)